

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCCT-02 M-02 AID-20

CCO-00 FBO-01 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NIC-01 NSC-07

SP-03 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-04 USSS-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 SCA-01

A-01 OMB-01 SS-20 SY-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06

SIL-01 PC-04 DRC-01 /171 W  
----- 040285

P 301600Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9881

INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 1427

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SL

SUBJECT: BOMBING OF FINANCE MINISTER'S HOME

1. SERIES FIVE OR MORE DYNAMITE EXPLOSIONS SET OFF  
PRE-DAWN JULY 30 AGAINST WALLS OF HOME ACTING V.P. MINFIN  
KAMARA-TAYLOR. NO PERSONAL INJURIES OCCURRED AND  
KAMARA-TAYLOR REPORTED TO HAVE ESCAPED UNHARMED BUT HAS  
REMAINED IN HIDING. HOUSE SUFFERED BROKEN WINDOWS BUT  
REPORTEDLY LITTLE OTHER DAMAGE IN WHAT POLICE TELL UK  
HIGH COMMISSIONER WAS BERY AMATEURISH ATTACK.

2. ACCORDING HIGH COMMISSIONER, POLICE AS YET HAVE  
NO INFORMATION ON IDENTITY OR MOTIVATION OF ATTACKERS  
OTHER THAN REPORT INCIDENT WAS THE WORK OF A GROUP OF  
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12 OR MORE UNIDENTIFIED MEN SEEN IN AREA AT TIME.

FREETOWN QUITE CALM WITH ONLY NOTICEABLE ABNORMAL SECURITY PRECAUTION BEING EXTRA POLICE GUARDS AND STREET BARRICAEDS OUTSIDE HOME OF PRESIDENT STEVENS WHO VISITING EASTERN EUROPE. CABINET MET THIS MORNING WITHOUT KAMARA-TAYLOR'S PRESENCE, REPORTEDLY TO DRAFT MESSAGE TO STEVENS AND ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PRESS. APPEARS BE NO DANGER TO AMERICANS OR OTHER FOREIGN RESIDENTS.

3. COMMENT: INCIDENT REMAINS VERY CONFUSED. IT FOLLOWS SEVERAL DAYS OF RUMORS OF IMPENDING ACTION AGAINST GOVERNMENT BY MILITARY ELEMENTS, REPORTEDLY FIRST SCHEDULED FOR JULY 25 BUT THEN DELAYED, BUT THOSE RUMORS FOCUSED ON POSSIBLE ACTION AGAINST VICE PRESIDENT KOROMA AND OTHER MINISTERS. INEPTNESS OF BOMBING AND APPARENT NORMALITY AT MILITARY BARRACKS IN AREA SUGGEST NO ARMY INVOLVEMENT. ONLY PLAUSIBLE BASIS FOR ATTACK IS WHAT APPEARS TO BE GROWING PUBLIC UNREST OVER HIGH FOOD PRICES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN EQUALIZED BY WAGE INCREASES AND RECENT CHARGES IN PARLIAMENT OF CORRUPTION AND MISUSE OF OFFICIAL FUNDS BY SOME MINISTERS.  
OLSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BOMBING, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 JUL 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** boyleja  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974FREETO01427  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740206-1186  
**From:** FREETOWN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t1974077/aaaaafpe.tel  
**Line Count:** 82  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** boyleja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by boyleja>  
**Review Markings:**

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US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BOMBING OF FINANCE MINISTER'S HOME  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, PORS, SL  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005